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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

~~Secret~~

9 April 1971
No. 0365/71

Copy № 54

87-228544

Approved for Release: 2018/06/27 C06747450

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The **WEEKLY SUMMARY**, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents pages.

WARNING

The WEEKLY SUMMARY contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the US Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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Jordan: *Clashes Continue*

As fighting between the fedayeen and government extended into a second week, King Husayn publicly warned the guerrillas they must withdraw their weapons from Amman or suffer the consequences.

Fighting this past week was concentrated in northern Jordan. On 4 April, army troops in the area of Jarash battled with a unit of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, estimated to number about 200. A correspondent touring a refugee camp in the same area reported the camp was heavily armed, and provisions had been made to defend it against an expected attack by the army. The same day Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials in Amman issued a public statement in which they agreed to remove surplus fedayeen weapons and personnel from the city and to discharge the remaining obligations of previous pacts with the government.

PLO chief Yasir Arafat, however, quickly denied that such an agreement had been reached and called upon the fedayeen—who he said had no other choice—to continue fighting against the government. Fedayeen leaders in Damascus also quickly disavowed the reported arrangement and declared that resistance forces would make no more agreements with the Jordanian authorities "regardless of the consequences."

Clashes erupted again on 7 April after a fedayeen rocket attack on the Jordanian Air Force base at Mafraq damaged two jets. The commandos later claimed they had attacked the air base in order to prevent the government from using the aircraft against their strongholds in northern Jordan. There was another clash in the same area of Jarash, which was the scene of the fighting on Sunday.

On 6 April, speaking to a gathering of representatives of Jordanian professional groups, King Husayn gave the fedayeen an ultimatum to get their weapons and personnel out of the capital or "the result will be cruel." According to the US defense attaché, the army has made contingency plans to occupy the eastern half of Amman. The units involved have been alerted, and the army is waiting for the King's order to move. The army also intends to reinforce units that would block fedayeen forces in northern Jordan and in the areas on the Syrian side of the border from moving into Amman. The army reportedly anticipates five days of fighting in the capital. An escape hatch to the desert area east of the city will be open to the fedayeen.

The Cairo-arranged conference of ambassadors from nine Arab states has still not met. Wednesday, Amman declined an invitation, saying it believed that an Arab summit conference must be convened to resolve Jordanian-fedayeen differences once and for all.

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